

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20

CPR-02 SY-10 USSS-00 DRC-01 /150 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3924

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: PERON ASSUMES OFFICE

1. SUMMARY: PERON ASSUMED OFFICE TODAY WEARING UNIFORM OF LT. GENERAL.

CROWD WAS HUGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC BUT, IN CONTRAST TO MAY 25, WAS ORDERLY AND CONTROLLED. OUTGOING PRESIDENT LASTIRI MAY PLAN TO VACATION IN

U.S. WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. PERON AND WIFE ISABEL TOOK OATHS OF OFFICE BEFORE CONGRESS JUST BEFORE NOON TODAY. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF SENATE ALLENDE GAVE BRIEF SPEECH BUT NEITHER PERON NOR ISABEL ADDRESSED AUDIENCE IN CONGRESS.

FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HE WENT INTO EXILE 18 YEARS AGO, PERON APPEARED IN

UNIFORM OF GENERAL OF ARGENTINE ARMY.

3. TWO THEN WENT TO CASA ROSADA WHERE, AT 1:45 P.M., PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI PASSED SASH AND BATON OF OFFICE TO PERON. AS EXPEC-

TED, LATTER SWORE IN SAME EIGHT CABINET MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED UNDER

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LASTIRI--I.E. SINCE CAMPORA'S OUSTER BACK IN JULY.

4. AT ABOUT 2:20 P.M. PERON APPEARED ON BALCONY OF CASA ROSADA. FROM BEHIND BULLET-PROOF SCREEN, HE ADDRESSED HUGE CROWD IN PLAZA DE MAYO EVERY MAY 1 TO SEE IF THEY APPROVED OF WAY HE WAS RUNNING GOVERNMENT. IN CLOSING, HE EXTENDED WARMEST GREETINGS TO YOUTH OF NATION AND CALLED ON THEM TO WORK AND LEARN SO THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE BANNERS OF NATION WHEN LATTER ARE PASSED TO THEM.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARED TO BE, IF ANYTHING, A BIGGER CROWD IN PLAZA DE MAYO TODAY THAN ON MAY 25, CROWD TODAY, WHILE ENTHUSIASTIC, WAS ORDERLY AND CONTROLLED. THE ERP, MONTONERO AND "VIVA CUBA" BANNERS SO MUCH IN EVIDENCE ON MAY 25 TODAY WERE VIRTUALLY ABSENT. CEREMONIES IN CONGRESS AND CASA ROSADA TODAY WERE ALSO ORDERLY AND DIGNIFIED -- IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO MELEE INSIDE CASA ROSADA ON MAY 25.

6. CROWD STARTED BREAKING UP ABOUT 3P.M. A FEW COLUMNS OF PERONIST YOUTH BROKE OUT MONTONERO BANNERS AND CHANTED GUERRILLA SLOGANS AS THEY MARCHED UP CORRIENTES AND THE PASEO COLON. THEY DID SO IN SUBDUED FASHION, HOWEVER, AND MOVED OFF IN TIGHTLY DISCIPLINED GROUP.

7. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES THAT EX-PRESIDENT LASTIRI AND WIFE PLAN TO TRAVEL TO U.S. DURING NEXT FEW DAYS FOR VACATION, PROBABLY IN MIAMI AREA. WE WILL PROVIDE TRAVEL PLANS AND DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, POSSIBLY OVER THE WEEKEND. LODGE

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